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PRIORITY

(Security Classification)

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

169

February 7, 1957

FROM : American Embassy, Jidda

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

REF : Embassy Telegram 448, February 7, 1957

13 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION NEA-4	DEPT. IN RM/R.2 CL-1-8 P-1 U/O-1 U/O-1 IO-4
	REC'D 2-21	F OTHER CIA-12 USIA-10 OCB-1

SUBJECT: Al-Bilad Editorial Concerning Mayor Wagner's Refusal to Welcome King Saud to New York.

There is attached a free English translation of an editorial appearing in the February 5 issue of Al-Bilad al-Saudiyyah concerning Mayor Wagner's refusal to welcome King Saud to New York. In brief, the editorial places the responsibility for the "shameless behavior" squarely on the Zionists and contrasts the Mayor's action with the courtesy and warm reception which has been given the King by the American Government and the public in general.

As pointed out in the referenced telegram, the public reaction/here to the incident appears generally to accord with the editorial. The incident does not seem to have affected the pleasure with which the public appears so far to have viewed the King's visit.

There has been no other editorial comment noted. Al-Bilad of February 6 reported that the King had received many telegrams and that all "protest the attitude of the Mayor of New York who is a supporter of the Jews." The same issue of Al-Bilad published the text of a telegram sent to the King on January 29 by The American Friends of the Middle East. The telegram expresses displeasure at the Mayor's conduct and points out that the Mayor's attitude does not represent that of the majority of the American people.

For the Charge d'Affaires a.i.

Robert B. Houghton
Robert B. Houghton
Second Secretary of Embassy

Enclosure:

Translation of Editorial in
Al-Bilad February 5, 1957.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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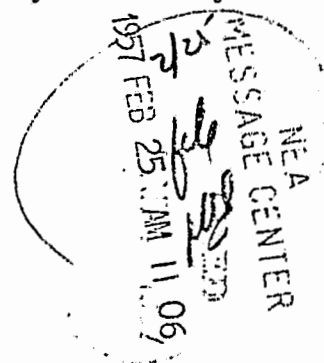
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 From

Free Translation of Editorial Appearing
 in Al-Bilad al-Saudiya No. 2370, Feb. 5, 1957.

The Zionist Robert Wagner and his gang can never defile the
 exalted position of His Majesty the King.

Radio Mecca ---

International news agencies have sent glowing reports of the courteous reception accorded H.M. King Saud in the City of New York - a reception in which the American people represented by their officials and staffs, have participated.

This radio (Radio Mecca) has been honored to broadcast some of these reports which prove that H.M. King Saud enjoys a remarkable reputation as the spiritual leader of the Arab World, and also as a leading personality in the political and general development of the Arab World which is making rapid progress towards freedom.

Everybody knows this fact. Important political observers and commentators have expressed the opinion that King Saud holds the key to "the new rise" for which every sincere Arab is striving, but a minor group who are unimportant, who are supporters of Zionism, who are unprincipled, and who perhaps have no conscience at all could not bear H.M.'s coming to the United States as a great and honored guest. These people were loathed to see H.M., the hero and the leader of the Arabs, being courteously received by the American people, both officials and non-officials. It was difficult for them to accept H.M.'s nobleness and serene presence. Consequently, with their perfidious Zionist methods, they tried to damage H.M.'s reputation/base stratagems.
 by

The leader of this shameless behaviour was a conscienceless Zionist named Robert Wagner who is the Governor*, (Mayor) of the city of New York. This man tried to spoil the cordial reception of H.M., and by so doing he risked jeopardizing the reputation of the American people. He succeeded only in defiling himself and his gang.

As a matter of fact, unimportant people like Wagner and his group can never defile the exalted position of H.M.

The Americans, officials and non-officials have noticed the misbehaviour of this official who is supposed to be honest and loyal to his Government and to the people he represents. Consequently, pages of American newspapers have been covered with H.M.'s pictures and with articles extolling the deeds of H.M. in the cause of human welfare, peace and the advancement of his people.

Thousands of telegrams have been received at the guest house occupied by H.M. in Washington expressing the public's resentment at the action of the Zionist Governor of New York. Thousands of telegrams are still being received

* Throughout the comment, Wagner was referred to as the Governor of New York.

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which indicate the infinite courtesy with which every American who is concerned with the interests of his country and who works for peace, has received H.M. King Saud.

Gentlemen; this action of the Mayor of New York is a good opportunity to bring to the attention of the American people the grave danger which threatens them should they ignore the activities of the Zionist gangs which can exist only amid conspiracies and perfidies, and which cannot grow except in a mire.

Yes, Wagner did not offend King Saud, and will not be able to harm the Arabs. He has actually offended himself and endeavored to harm the American people and their wise Government.

This man has given the whole world the chance to witness the low level to which Zionism has descended and the base methods which they use.

Finally, we should state that King Saud's reason for accepting the invitation to visit America was a noble one, namely to explain the Arab point of view in order to realize peace; to restore security in the Middle East, and also to accelerate the pace of progress among the Arabs.

We shall never forget to emphasize the official comments which state that H.M. King Saud is the greatest guest of the United States in hundreds of years. The most obvious proof of this fact is that President Eisenhower went personally to the airport to greet H.M., an action which no other American President has ever taken with respect to any head of state, except King Saud.

(Free Translation)

Translator: Ali Oteibi

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